

Washington's Higher Education Participation Compared to Other States

National Percentile and Ascending Rank for 2-, 4-, and 2+4-Year Institutions during 1998

Category Institution	U.S. Percentile	Ascending U.S. Rank
Total	52	25
2- & 4-Yr. Public	68	17
Lower Division	68	8
Upper Division	16	43
Other Graduate	4	49
Grad & Prof	14	44
2-Yr. Public	92	5
4-Yr. Public	4	49
Lower Division	6	48
Upper Division	16	43
Other Graduate	4	49
Grad & Prof	14	44
4-Yr. Private	30	36
Lower Division	12	45
Upper Division	40	31
Other Graduate	50	26
Grad & Prof	46	28

- ▶ The federal Department of Education ranks participation in higher education among the states based on the percentage of the age 17 and over population enrolled in public and private, two- and four-year higher education institutions. The latest available data are for 1998.
- ▶ Overall, Washington's total system ranks 25th among the states in participation, while the public system ranks 17th. However, there are large differences in rank among parts of the system.
- ▶ Washington's public system of higher education is configured quite differently from those in most other states: Washington's public policy has been to fund a large number of two-year institutions (33) widely dispersed across the state, while funding six four-year institutions with main campuses in six locations plus six smaller branch campuses.
- ▶ Compared with other states, Washington's two-year public participation rate is high (ranked 5th), while its four-year public participation rate is low (ranked 49th).
- ▶ Although Washington ranks low in four-year enrollment, based on 2000 Census data, the state is ranked 10th in the percentage of its adult population with a bachelor's degree or higher. The migration to Washington of educated persons of working age to take advantage of economic opportunities in the state contributes to this high ranking.

SOURCES:
Enrollment is from National Center Education System (NCES) – Integrated Postsecondary Enrollment Data System (IPEDS).

Fall Enrollment Report. Population is from US Census Bureau.

Participation in Washington's 2-Year Public System Ranks High in Nation 1998 U.S. Percentile and Ranking

